

## News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Town of Lyme's Pay-As-You-Throw Solid Waste Disposal Program Generates Remarkable Increase in Recycling**

Concord, NH – The N.H. Department of Environmental Services announced today that the town of Lyme achieved remarkable results in its first full year of a pay-as-you-throw solid waste disposal program. Lyme's recycling rate increased substantially from 13.4 percent in 2005 to 51.9 percent in 2006. The town disposed of 310 tons of waste in 2006—264 tons less than in 2005—and recycled 334 tons, up from 89 tons in 2005.

Pay-as-you-throw programs have proven to increase recycling in many communities. Basically, families have a financial incentive to recycle and create less trash when they are charged for each bag of garbage that they throw out. The first action that families can take to reduce their trash is to recycle more paper products, including cereal boxes, junk mail, used paper bags, and more. The US Environmental Protection Agency found that 35 percent of all garbage is paper, and less than 50 percent of that paper is recovered. Almost all paper products, except for maybe the cheesy pizza box or milk and juice cartons, are recyclable.

Every ton of material that is not thrown away is a ton that does not go into landfills or incinerators, does not cost towns disposal fees, and can generate money for municipalities by the sale of recyclable material. For example, the recent price for corrugated cardboard is \$90 a ton; for mixed paper, \$45 a ton; and for aluminum cans, \$1,500 per ton.

Any New Hampshire town interested in starting a pay-as-you-throw program can contact Don Maurer with the DES Solid Waste Technical Assistance Section at (603) 271-3713 or [dmaurer@des.state.nh.us](mailto:dmaurer@des.state.nh.us) for help.

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